The Road to Pediatric Urological Subcertification

The Making of a Subspecialty

H. Gil Rushton
Anthony A. Caldamone
The Road to Pediatric Urological Subcertification

Patience
Planning
Persistence
Road to Subspecialty Certification

PATIENCE
25 year process (early 1980’s-2007)

PLANNING
- Cumulative result of wide variety of political action, academic and training initiatives
- Each set a new bar
Road to Subspecialty Certification

PERSEVERANCE
-Unanimity of leadership that subspecialty certification was in best interest of our patients

Subspecialty Societies
Society for Pediatric Urology (1952)  
AAP Section on Urology (1971)  
Society for Fetal Urology (1998)  
American Assn of Pediatric Urologists (1998)
Road to Subspecialty Certification

Goals

“Why do you need certification? You already have everything you need.”

- Recognition of those who had special training and committed to full-time practice in pediatric urology
- Allow parents and pediatricians to recognize those urologists with special training
- Allow access to those trained in pediatric urology when many patients were denied this by managed care organizations
In the beginning......

Pediatric Surgeon  Adult Urologist
In the beginning......
Road to Subspecialty Certification

Goals

The goal was never to exclude general urologists and pediatric surgeons capable of caring for children.
Sir Denis Browne
Father of Pediatric Surgery

In justification for establishing pediatric surgery as subspecialty:

“Paediatric surgery exists as a specialty, not to establish a monopoly but to establish a standard.“
The Time to Certify Pediatric Urologists Has Arrived
A. Barry Belman, M.D.
Invited Commentary
Current Urology Reports 2002

“By the way, to whom will you send your son or grandson with hypospadias? Your golf buddy who does a great prostatectomy or the fellowship-trained pediatric urologist?”
Society For Pediatric Urology (SPU)

1952: The Pediatric Urological Group, Atlantic City, NJ

John Benjamin (Rochester NY), Edgar Burns (New Orleans), Donald Charnock (LA), Ormond Culp (Rochester MN), Donald Creevy (Minneapolis), Austin I. Dodson (Durham), John Lattimer (NYC), Robert Lich (Louisville), Charles J.E. Kickham (Boston), William A. Milner (Albany), John Patton (Washington DC)

Meredith Campbell, Frank Bicknell
Road to Subspecialty Certification Society for Pediatric Urology

• Dedicated to promoting understanding and expertise in treating urologic diseases in children
• Publishes *Dialogues in Pediatric Urology*
• Active role in American Urological Assn
• Committee representation by pediatric urologists
Road to Subspecialty Certification
Society for Pediatric Urology

Significant role in AUA Annual Meeting
- Abstract selection process
- Recommendations for Plenary Sessions
- Instructional and Postgraduate Courses

Separate meeting
- Monday morning meeting initially
- Later Sunday afternoon and then pre AUA
SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC UROLOGY

TOPIC-ORIENTED SEMINAR

The Undescended Testis

Toronto, Canada

June, 1981

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American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – Section on Urology

• 1960-Committee of Urology of the AAP
• 1966
  • Frank Bicknell’s brother-in-law President AAP
  • John Lattimer President New York Section AUA
  • Hotel room reserved at the AAP in New York City for new specialty meeting
    • An overflow crowd showed up
• 1971 -Section on Urology established
AAP – Committee of Urology

In the beginning…..

- The primary purpose was to secure close ties to pediatricians and protect pediatric urologists from incursions by pediatric surgery

- Educate pediatricians about urologic conditions

- Have a role in the policies of the AAP with regards to pediatric urology
AAP – Section on Urology

- Became a haven/refuge for pediatric urological science
  - Fall AAP meeting
  - Adopted by international pediatric urological community
- Membership was more exclusive than the SPU
  - At a time when SPU was opening its doors to any AUA member

- Gave pediatric urology “independence”
  - Could pursue different tact for subcertification
  - AUA and ABU had to pay attention, recognizing pediatric urology as a different science requiring specialized training
  - 1975 - Pediatric urology AAP representative to be standing member of ABU
AAP – Section on Urology

• Development of AAP endorsed brochures defining pediatric surgical subspecialties
• Development of AAP endorsed Referral Guidelines

Pediatrics 110:187-191, 2002

• Support from AAP
  – Endorsement for subcertification from AAP Board of Directors and American Board of Pediatrics
• Essential component
  – Needed for identification of specialty training in pediatric urology
Pediatric Urology: Winds of Change
Road to Subspecialty Certification

- AAP Section on Pediatric Urology
  - 2000 - Bylaws change for membership
    - 75% pediatric urology
    - 1997 – completion of ACGME accredited fellowship

- Society for Pediatric Urology (2001)
  - 2001- Rigid criteria for “Fellow” status
    - 1998 - completion of ACGME accredited fellowship
    - 90% pediatric urology
    - In-service examination requirement
Road to Subspecialty Certification

– AAP/SPU coordinated leadership: Initiatives
  • RRC representation
  • ACGME – accredited fellowships (1991)
  • ABU approval for Pediatric Urology In-Service Examination (1995)
Pediatric Urology: Fragmentation

SPU

SFU

AAP-U

SOU

AAPU

Pediatric Urology Coordinating Council
Road to Subspecialty Certification

Coordinating Council

• **Coordinating Council** (1994) for pediatric urology organizations (AAP-SOU, SPU, SFU, AAPU)
  – Negotiated separate Section of Journal of Urology with own editorial board
  – Voluntary hospital credentialing guidelines
  – Organized/administered fellowship match
Road to Subspecialty Certification

Publications

• Pediatric Urology Club Letter
  – Interesting case reports / topics / crazy ideas by members

• SPU Newsletter
  – Richard Ehrlich

• Dialogues in Pediatric Urology

• Pediatric Section, Journal of Urology
  – Supplement
Publications: SPU Newsletter
Rick Ehrlich

Can Crede Be Too Vigorous?

Renal Isotope Scanning for Hydronephrosis

Enuresis Following Hypospadias Repair
Publications: Dialogues in Pediatric Urology
J Urology AAP Supplement: Formal Peer-reviewed Publication

• Supplement for AAP-SOU meeting 1985
• July 1986

• Pediatric Urology Medal
  – Sir David Innes Williams
  – “Reflux: A Career Experience”
FOREWORD

Publication of this Supplement, containing selected papers presented and discussed at the annual meeting of the Section of Urology, American Academy of Pediatrics, in San Antonio, Texas, October 19-24, 1985 represents a trial change in policy of the Journal of Urology. A limited number of topic and subspecialty oriented supplements are being solicited in an attempt to provide a current summary of the status of subjects of particular interest to urologists. I have found the articles and discussions in this Supplement to be very informative and trust that you will also. Hopefully this Supplement and the ones to follow will assist all of us in exchanging information and ideas.

Terry Allen served both as the Chairman of the Editorial Committee at the American Academy of Pediatrics and as the Editorial Staff Representative assigned to supervise the publication of this Supplement. His dual role required a great deal of time and effort. He deserves our special thanks.

John T. Grayhack
Editor
Road to Specialization
Formal Peer-reviewed Publication

- AAP Supplement

- Coordinating Council
  - Journal of Urology vs. Independent Journal

- Section of Pediatric Urology, J Urol 1995
  - Dixon Walker, Editor
  - Stu Bauer, Jack Elder, Associate Editors
  - 10 articles/issue
Training
ACGME Accreditation of Fellowships

• Pediatric urology fellowships began in the 1970’s
  • Chicago: Lowell King and F. Douglas Stephens
  • Boston: Hardy Hendren
  • England: Herbie Johnston and D.I. Williams
    – Primarily preceptorships with no academic/educational regulation
• 1983 – 6 U.S. fellowships (Boston, Philadelphia, Indiana, Detroit, Chicago, San Diego) and Toronto
• 1991 Fellowship accreditation
  – Program requirements written by SPU and AAP-SOU (Coordinating Council)
Pediatric In-Service Examination
PISE

• Approved in 1995 through the ABU / Examination Committee
  – Under the concept of need for objective measure fellowship knowledge and training
  – IN TRUTH
    • Set up as precursor to a subspecialty certification examination

  – Mike Mitchell and Barry Kogan and pediatric task force of ABU Exam Committee
  – 1997 first PISE, became predecessor of the Pediatric Subspecialty Urology Examination (2007)
Pediatric Urology Advisory Council

PUAC: 2000

• Mike Mitchell and Bill Cromie
  – “We need to do the heavy lifting for the ABU regarding pediatric subcertification”
  – Composed of leadership of SPU, AAP-SUO, SFU, AAPU
  – PUAC Executive Secretary: Gil Rushton (2000-08)
  – Regular meetings between ABU and PUAC
    • Every Sunday afternoon of the AUA
    • June 2001 – Anaheim AUA
EMERITUS TRUSTEES

* Dr. William F. Braasch, 1935-1940
* Dr. Henry Bagbee, 1935-1945
* Dr. Gilbert J. Thomas, 1935-1953
* Dr. Herman Kretschmer, 1935-1943
* Dr. Nathaniel P. Rathbun, 1935-1946
* Dr. George Gilbert Smith, 1935-1950
* Dr. Clarence G. Bandler, 1935-1949
* Dr. A. L. Folsom, 1935-1946
* Dr. T. Leon Howard, 1935-1946
* Dr. Harry Culver, 1943-1956
* Dr. George F. Cahill, 1944-1954
* Dr. E. Granville Crabtree, 1946-1948
* Dr. A. I. Dudson, 1946-1955
* Dr. Charles C. Higgins, 1946-1952
* Dr. Grayson Carroll, 1947-1961
* Dr. Edgar Burns, 1948-1959
* Dr. Thomas D. Moore, 1949-1958
* Dr. Roger C. Graves, 1950-1951
* Dr. Rubin H. Flocks, 1952-1975
* Dr. William Niles Wishard, Jr., 1953-1969
* Dr. Donald A. Charnock, 1954-1962
* Dr. William P. Herbst, Jr., 1955-1963
* Dr. Frank C. Ham, 1956-1964
* Dr. Wylund F. Leadbetter, 1957-1965
* Dr. Robert Lich, Jr., 1958-1976
* Dr. Hugh J. Jewett, 1960-1966
* Dr. W. E. Kittredge, 1962-1970
* Dr. Thomas E. Gibson, 1963-1971
* Dr. James M. McDonald, 1963-1981
* Dr. Victor F. Marshall, 1964-1973
* Dr. J. Hartwell Harrison, 1965-1974
* Dr. W. Dalney Jamieson, 1965-1975
* Dr. William L. Valk, 1969-1978
* Dr. Clarence V. Hodges, 1971-1980

* Dr. Russell Scott, Jr., 1971-1979
* Dr. Ormond S. Culpe, 1972-1977
* Dr. Ralph A. Straffon, 1974-1980
* Dr. J. Tate Mason, 1974-1980
* Dr. Lowell R. King, 1974-1980
* Dr. William E. Goodwin, 1975-1981
* Dr. William J. Staubitz, 1975-1981
* Dr. C. E. Carlton, Jr., 1975-1982
* Dr. James F. Glenn, 1976-1982
* Dr. David C. Utz, 1977-1983
* Dr. John T. Grayhack, 1978-1984
* Dr. Alan D. Perlmutter, 1979-1985
* Dr. Frank J. Himan, Jr., 1979-1985
* Dr. William H. Boyce, 1980-1986
* Dr. Joseph B. Dowd, 1980-1986
* Dr. Paul C. Peters, 1980-1986
* Dr. Bruce H. Stewart, 1981-1983
* Dr. John D. Young, 1981-1987
* Dr. Abraham T.K. Cockett, 1981-1987
* Dr. Jay Y. Gillenwater, 1982-1988
* Dr. Joseph J. Kaufman, 1982-1988
* Dr. Russell Lavengood, 1983-1988
* Dr. Winston K. Melbust, 1983-1989
* Dr. John P. Donohue, 1984-1990
* Dr. E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., 1984-1990
* Dr. George W. Bruch, 1990-1991
* Dr. John W. Burkett, Jr., 1985-1991
* Dr. Terry E. Allen, 1986-1992
* Dr. Robert G. Gobons, 1986-1992
* Dr. Stuart S. Howards, 1987-1993
* Dr. Patrick C. Walsh, 1987-1993
* Dr.Jean B. Defermion, 1988-1994
* Dr. Carl A. Olsson, 1988-1994
* Dr. David L. McCullough, 1989-1995

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Dr. W. Scott McDougal 1990-1996
Dr. Alan J. Wein 1990-1996
Dr. Jack W. McArnch 1991-1997
Dr. George W. Kaplan 1991-1997
Dr. Joseph N. Corriere, Jr., 1992-1998
Dr. Jerome P. Richie 1992-1998
Dr. H. Logan Holtgrowe 1993-1999
Dr. Kenneth A. Kropp 1993-1999
Dr. David M. Barrett 1994-2000
Dr. Richard L. Williams 1994-2000
Dr. Andrew C. Novick 1995-2001
Dr. Thomas J. Rohner, Jr., 1995-2001
Dr. John M. Barry, 1996-2002
Dr. Fay E. Marshall, 1996-2002
Dr. Michael E. Mitchell, 1997-2003
Dr. Martin F. Resnick, 1997-2003
Dr. Paul F. Schallhammer, 1998-2004
Dr. Robert M. Weiss, 1998-2004
Dr. Michael J. Droller, 1999-2005
Dr. Joseph A. Smith, Jr., 1999-2005
Dr. Robert C. Flanigan, 2000-2006
Dr. Mani Menon, 2000-2006
Dr. Peter C. Albertsen, 2001-2007
Dr. Linda M. Shortliffe, 2001-2007
Dr. Peter B. Carroll, 2003-2008
Dr. Howard M. Snyder, III, 2002-2008
Dr. W. Redford Warden, 2003-2009
Dr. David A. Bloom, 2003-2009
Dr. Michael O. Koch 2004-2010
Dr. Paul H. Lange 2004-2010
Dr. William D. Steers, 2005-2011
Dr. Ralph Clayman, 2005-2011
Dr. Timothy B. Boone, 2006-2012
Dr. Gerald H. Jordan, 2006-2012
Dr. John B. Ernstrom, 2007-2013
Dr. Barry A. Hogan, 2007-2013
Dr. Margaret S. Pearle, M.D. Ph.D., 2008-2014
Dr. John C. Olson, M.D., 2008-2014
Dr. Michael L. Ritchey, M.D., 2009-2015
Dr. Peter N. Schlegel, M.D., 2009-2015
Pediatric Representation on ABU

• Stu Howards
  – Executive Secretary ABU
  – 1997 - 2011
ABU - PUAC Meetings

• Initially
  – One sided conversations
  – Demonstrated status of
    • Peds Exam Committee
    • Fellowship reports
    • Match results
    • Subspecialty certification

• Eventually momentum grew

Minutes
Pediatric Urology Advisory Council
Sunday May 9, 2004
Union Square Rooms 15 & 16
San Francisco Hilton

Members present: Dr. Stuart Howards (ABU), Dr. H. Gil Rushion (PUAC), Dr. Rick Rink (AAP), Dr. Tony Caldarelli (SPU), Dr. Mike Ritchey (AAP), Dr. Marc Casiotone (SPU), Dr. Mike Mitchell (AAP), Dr. Pat McKenna (SPU), Dr. Jack Elder (AAP)

Guests present: Dr. Robert Flanagan (ABU), Dr. Peter Albertsen (ABU), Dr. Bedford Waters (ABU), Dr. Linda Shorilffe (ABU), Dr. David Bloom (ABU), Dr. Howard Snyder (ABU)

The fourth meeting of the Pediatric Urology Advisory Council convened at 4:10 pm on Sunday May 9, 2004 in San Francisco, California. Dr. H. Gil Rushion, Executive Secretary of the Advisory Council, asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 27, 2003. The minutes were approved without any changes.

I. Dr. Rushion next thanked the members of the ABU on behalf of the AAP Section on Urology, the Society for Pediatric Urology, the Society for Fetal Urology and the American Association of Pediatric Urologists for the thoughtful and objective consideration of the Proposal for a Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Pediatric Urology. The organizations are all grateful and greatly appreciative of the unanimous decision by the ABU to “support and approve the concept of creating a Certificate of Added Qualification in Pediatric Urology” which was passed at the last meeting of the American Board of Urology in February 2004.

II. Dr. Stuart Howards updated the PUAC on the decision by the American Board of Urology and confirmed that it was their intention to proceed with a formal proposal for a CAQ in Pediatric Urology to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). He outlined the process for this rating that Intent to Submit a Proposal must be announced to all Member organizations at least 1 year before the meeting at which the formal proposal will be submitted for a vote. A formal proposal for a CAQ has to be submitted by the ABU both to the Committee on Certification, Subspecialization, and Recertification (COCERT), the Executive Committee of the ABMS and the Member Boards at least 180 days in advance of the next COCERT meeting which meets two times each year. This is followed by a 6-month period for comment by any of the other specialty boards. The proposal would then be voted upon by the Member specialty boards and requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Voting Representatives at a Regular Meeting of the Members at which a quorum is present. Thus, formal approval by the ABMS of a CAQ in Pediatric Urology would take a minimum of 1 year after the final plan has been submitted.
PUAC Formal Proposal

• Prevailing concerns
  – Fragmentation of Urology based on other subspecialties that might seek subcertification
  – Adversely impact / restrict pediatric practice of general urologists
    • Not true in other specialties – pediatrics
    • Not restricted by the ABMS
      – “there is no requirement or necessity for a diplomat in a recognized specialty to hold special certification in subspecialty of that field in order to be considered qualified to include aspects of that subspecialty within a specialty practice.”
Road to Subspecialty Certification
Pediatric Urology Advisory Council

• July 2003 PUAC submitted formal proposal to ABU for Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ)
  – Endorsed by AAP Board of Directors
  – Endorsed by American Board of Pediatrics

• American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) - 4 major areas of criteria
American Board of Medical Specialties
ABMS: Criteria for Subspecialization

1. Documentation of the professional and scientific status of this field includes (a) the existence of a body of scientific medical knowledge which is in large form different, or more detailed than that of other areas in which primary certification is offered.

- 2 major texts with international authorship
- 2 surgical atlases
- Journal of Urology-Pediatric Section with separate editorial board
- 18 ACGME accredited fellowships
- PISE
- Representation on ABU and RRC
American Board of Medical Specialties
ABMS: Criteria for Subspecialization

2. The existence of a group of physicians concentrating their practice in the proposed area, the number of such physicians and the annual rate of increase in the past decade, and their geographic distribution at present.

– 2005: approximately 250 full-time pediatric urologists
– Geographically distributed throughout entire U.S.
– 12-16 new trainees per year over last decade
American Board of Medical Specialties
ABMS: Criteria for Subspecialization

3. The existing national societies, the principle interest of which is in the proposed areas.
   
   – SPU: 280 fellows
   – AAP-SOU: 270 active / 70 international members
   – SFU: 191 members
   – AAPU: 128 members
American Board of Medical Specialties
ABMS: Criteria for Subspecialization

4. Numerical and geographic distribution of medical school and hospital departments, divisions, or other units in which the principle effort is devoted to the area for special certification.

– Virtually every ACGME approved residency had a pediatric urologist
– Vast majority of medical schools had a section or division of pediatric urology
Subspecialty Certification in Pediatric Urology

- 2004 - obtained support / approval of “concept of Certificate of Added Qualification” from ABU

- 2005 - ABU submitted formal proposal to American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)
Dear ABU Trustees and PUAC members:

I would like to let you all know that the ABU application and submission to the ABMS for approval to subcertify in Pediatric Urology was approved at the meeting on September 19, 2006. Dr. Howards was present at the meeting and asked me to let you know that not only was pediatric subspecialty certification approved; the head of the COCERT committee of the ABMS (which reviews and makes recommendations on all such matters) also said ours was the best application he could remember reviewing. Everyone’s hard work has paid off. The Board office will now proceed with the plans to implement the process. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hope this finds you all well, Ursula

Ursula B. Hickson, Administrator
The American Board of Urology
Pediatric Subcertification Examination

PSCE

First exam written 2007

150 question exam
The Road to Certification: Epilogue

• In 2008, 176 applicants took 1st subspecialty certification exam
• As of Fall 2018, another 225 have taken and passed the examination
• Currently 24 ACGME-accredited fellowships
  • 28-32 new applicants per year
• Under leadership of PUAC Executive Secretary Tony Caldamone (2008-16), the PUAC continued to work with ABU to develop monitoring criteria, including the research year
• Pediatric Urology is thriving and widely recognized by ABU as having established the bar for subspecialty certification in Urology
Dedication

Doug Rushton
11/4/56-9/27/19

10 year survivor ALS